

Items of Interest.

—Eleven thousand brass bands play for the Salvation Army.

—It is estimated that there are 210,000 orchards in Great Britain.

—Choice green lemons in Sicily are worth about \$1.85 per thousand.

—The earthquake in Japan is now reported to have killed 30,000 people.

—Vienna is one of the most expensive cities in the world, so far as good and varied food is concerned.

—In round numbers there are about 800,000 persons drawing pensions as the result of the Civil War.

—According to a musical journal there are in London at this moment 244,000 females who are learning music.

—A hail storm in western Nebraska covered the railroads to a depth of four feet in some places and blockaded trains.

—The British and Foreign Bible Society has issued nearly 140,000,000 Bibles, testaments and portions of the scriptures.

—The new catalogue of the Wisconsin University shows a total registration of 1,598 students during the present college year.

—The sea power of Great Britain is at this moment readier for action than the sea power of all the rest of the world together.

—The British press generally approve of the gold plank in the Republican platform in America, while they condemn protection.

—Teapots were the invention of either the Indians or the Chinese, and are of uncertain antiquity. They came to Europe with tea in 1610.

—Harvey was the pioneer of modern surgery, discovering as he did the circulation of the blood, he laid the foundations of the modern science.

—The 5,000 horse power pumping engine in the mines at Friendsville, Pa., raises 17,500 gallons of water at each revolution of the gigantic fly wheel.

—Jerusalem is now competing with Spain, Mexico and California for the orange trade of the world. The fruit is grown in the district between Jerusalem and Jaffa.

—Twenty-four Governments, including the United States, Japan, China, Persia, and nearly all the Eupropean countries, have given official notice that they will exhibit in Paris in 1900.

—It has been decided by the Supreme Court of Ohio that the excise law, requiring express companies to pay an annual tax of two per cent. of their gross receipts on business done in that state, is valid.

—The gilding in the throne room of the Sultan of Constantinople is unequalled by any other building in Europe, and from the ceiling hangs a superb Venetian chandelier, the 200 lights of which make the gleam like that on a veritable sun.

OUR NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

"My country 'tis of thee—
Land of the noble free
Of thee I sing!
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring."

THE GREAT DAY OF HISTORY.

It is quite probable that in the long period of human history, covering six thousand years, no one event has been fraught with such deep interest to the race of mankind as the declaration of independence by the colonies of America on the fourth day of July, 1776. The event did not concern the colonies alone, nor the two nations most deeply interested in the affair of the hour simply, but every nation and people of earth, whether the event passed before their eyes or not. The colonies in their independence became the world's model nation, which, in its spirit and laws, has doubtless, for the past hundred years, received more admiration and imitation than any other or all other nations. The act of 1776, by fifty or more heroic Americans, was such a stroke as had never been given for humanity in all the ages. It was the one act by which the gates of despotism were to be slowly but surely unhinged—by which liberty was to be enthroned and crowned for all time. No nation of earth has failed of advancement through that act. The world itself has been impelled into an endless march toward a better, higher, nobler condition. Forces were set in motion that have and will continue to mold the heart of public sentiment after the highest and noblest models of time.

The event itself and the day of it need not be recalled; they may perish as facts from the minds of men, but the results of the event and the fruit of the day's sowing will be no less than an endless harvest of best things for humanity. All hail our natal day! May its glory with us as a people never dim, and may its celebration be with an ever-increasing appreciation and enthusiasm.—*Religious Telescope.*

"Flag of the free heart's hope and home!
By angel hands to valor given!
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!"

A MISSIONARY in China says: "If there is anything that lays hold of the people here, it is the simple story of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not his miracles, nor even His wonderful sayings or teaching, but the old, old story of the cross, of the blood, the sacrifice, of the satisfaction of Christ in dying for sinners on the tree—that is the power for good in touching the heart and awakening the conscience."

RELIGION in its purity is not so much a pursuit as a temper; or rather it is a temper leading to the pursuit of all that is high and holy. Its foundation is faith; its action, works; its temper, holiness; its aim, obedience to God in improvement of self and benevolence to men.—*Edwards.*

Literary Notes.

The Chautauquan for July contains a great variety of useful and interesting information, as the following table of contents attests: A Group of Eminent American Women, by Eugene L. Didier; The Carnival of Venice in the Eighteenth Century, by V. Malamani; Chinese Labor Unions in America, by Walter N. Fong; Sunday Readings, selected by Bishop Vincent; In the Shadow of the Guillotine, a story, by Eleanor Lambec; Under the Apple Tree, by Professor Byron D. Halsted, Sc. D.; Scottish Bards, by William Wye Smith; A Romance of the Stars, a story, chapters XIV and XV, by Mary Proctor; A great electrical Exhibit, by Robert Jamison; Beverages, by Thomas Grant Allen, M. A.; Fireside Talks with Great Men, by Frank G. Carpenter; Life in the Western Pacific, by Arthur Inkersley, B. A., Oxon., LL. B.; Music from the Standpoint of Sociology, by Camille Ballaigne; A Heroine in Ebony, by Rosa Belle Holt; Slang and Metaphor, by Miss E. F. Andrews; Wonders of Bird Migration, by Colette Smiley; California's Fruit Exchange, by Margaret A. Sudduth; An Evening Song, a poem, by Wilson C. Dibble; The Feast of Lanterns, a poem, by Arthur J. Burdick; The Coronation of the Czar, and The Art Mania, editorials. The most important events of the month are chronicled in the department of Current History and Opinion, and in Talk About Books many new books are impartially reviewed.